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BOUNTIES PAID BY STATES

Compiled by Frank G. Grimes, Administrative Assistant
Division of Public Relations

In this leaflet is presented in concise form a summary of the bounties paid under the laws of the various States for destroying such wild animals and birds as are considered a menace to other forms of valuable wildlife, or to livestock, poultry, or private property. Bounties are paid on such species in 28 States. In other States, however, certain species, classed as "vermin" or predators, are not afforded the protection that is extended to game and other beneficial kinds, notwithstanding the fact that, in the general scheme of nature, they may serve some useful purpose.

The attitude of the bounty laws toward the various species is not uniform in all cases, not even in States bordering those that pay bounties. This would seem to indicate that neighboring States do not regard the injurious species as sufficiently obnoxious to encourage their destruction by the payment of bounties, or else that they consider some other method more efficient.

For various reasons some of the States have found the bounty system impracticable. Moreover, the experience of the Bureau of Biological Survey, working in cooperation with the States, has shown that control operations based on scientific methods and research have been more effective and humane than has the bounty system, particularly with reference to large predators.

The procedure to be followed in claiming bounties varies greatly in the different States. It is too lengthy and involved to be presented in this leaflet. The details, however, may be obtained by writing the State game departments.

Alaska:

Wolf, coyote, \$15 each; eagle, \$1 each.

Colorado:

Mountain lion, \$50 each.

Connecticut:

Each township shall pay a bounty of \$5 for the killing of any wildcat in said township, payable from any surplus remaining from the dog license funds. Any township may offer a bounty of not more than \$5 for the killing of any fox, rattlesnake, or copperhead, and not more than \$1 for weasel, woodchuck, wild Belgian hares or wild German hares.

Delaware:

Hawks, 50¢; crows, 5¢.

Idaho:

Fish and game warden is authorized to set aside not exceeding \$6,000 a year for payment of such bounties as he may deem necessary for the destruction of predatory animals and birds.

Indiana:

Wolf, \$20; fox, \$5; but not more than \$3 for a wolf under 6 months old, or \$1.50 for a fox under 6 months old. Woodchuck, hawk, owl, (except sparrow hawk and screech owl), \$2 each. Crow, 10¢ each; crow eggs 5¢ each in lots of 10 or more.

Kansas:

Coyote, \$2 each; gopher, 10¢ each. Paid by county commissioners. Commissioners are also authorized to pay a bounty of 10¢ each on jackrabbits if they deem it advisable.

Maine:

Bobcat, Canada lynx (loup-cervier), \$15 each; bears, in towns where they are destroying sheep, cattle, or other valuable domestic animals, \$20.

Michigan:

Coyote, \$10; English sparrow, 2¢ each.

Minnesota:

County or town supervisors may offer bounty for destruction of gophers, ground squirrels, ground hogs or woodchucks, rattlesnakes, crows, or blackbirds. In no case shall the bounty exceed 5¢ for each pocket gopher; 3¢ for each common gopher, or ground squirrel; 15¢ for each groundhog or woodchuck; 50¢ for each rattlesnake; 10¢ a dozen for blackbirds killed during April, May and June, and 5¢ a dozen during July, August, September and October; 10¢ for each crow between May 15 and June 15, and August 15 and September 15. Adult wolf, \$15; cub wolf, \$6. County boards may offer bounties for the destruction of grey fox.

Missouri:

Hawk, eagle, horned owl, 50¢ each, for which \$5,000 is set aside each year for payments.

Montana:

To pay bounties on predatory animals, \$7,500 each year is set aside from game commission's funds, to be matched by a like amount each year from taxes on livestock.

Nebraska:

Wolf, coyote, mountain lion, \$2 each; wildcat, \$1 each; pocket gopher, ground squirrel, crow, magpie, 10¢ each; jackrabbit, 5¢ each.

New Hampshire:

Wildcat (bobcat), lynx, \$20 each.

New Jersey:

Fox, \$3; woodchuck, not exceeding 50¢ each.

Ohio:

Chicken hawk, goshawk, blue hawk, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, duck hawk, great horned owl, \$1 each; crow, 25¢ each.

Oklahoma:

Commission has power to pay bounties on crows, hawks, and other destructive agents of wildlife. County commissioners may offer not to exceed \$5 each on grey wolf or coyote, and 5¢ each on crow, English sparrow, hawk, rabbit, prairie dog, gopher, and ground squirrel.

Oregon:

Wolf, \$30; cougar, \$20.

Pennsylvania:

Canada or bay lynx (bobcat or wildcat), \$15; grey fox, \$4; weasel, \$1; goshawk (between November 1 and May 1), \$5.

Rhode Island:

Fox, \$5.

South Carolina:

Coyote, in Chester County, \$5.

South Dakota:

Adult wolf, not exceeding \$25; mountain lion, not exceeding \$10; coyote over 1 year old, not exceeding \$5; coyote cub, not exceeding \$3; lynx and bobcat, not exceeding \$3.

Texas:

In Wise, Jack, Young, and Shackelford Counties the county commissioners are authorized to pay from the general fund a bounty of \$50 each on wolves; and in McCulloch, San Saba, Lampasas, Mills, Erath, Limestone, Jasper, Hood, Bastrop, Brazos, Grimes, and Sterling Counties the commissioners may pay from the general fund such bounties as they may determine on wolves and wildcats, and on other predatory animals.

Vermont:

Bay lynx, \$5.

Virginia:

Bobcat, \$5; goshawk, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, and great horned owl, 50¢ each; crow (between April 1 and September 30), 15¢ each.

Washington:

Cougar, \$25; lynx or bobcat, \$5; coyote, \$1.

West Virginia:

Commission may offer bounty as it deems necessary for the destruction of wild nongame animals that prey upon and destroy game animals, and on game, song, and insectivorous birds.

Wisconsin:

Wolf or coyote cub (between March 1 and November 1), \$4; adult wolf or coyote, \$30; wildcat, \$5; lynx, \$5; fox, \$2.